

advances, a fixed monetary amount to be contributed in exchange for a unit of equity in a prospective technology development venture to develop the respective one of said advances;

A2 transmitting, over said global computer network to preselected computers, identifications of said advances together with respective values of the determined fixed monetary amounts; and

operating said host computer to receive, over said network from at least some of said preselected computers, respective bids for desired numbers of units of equity in the technology development ventures.

(Cancel claim 2.)

(Amend claim 3 as follows:)

3. (Once Amended) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

A3 setting a maximum number of units of equity on which bids may be made for each of said advances;

operating said host computer to automatically tally totals of units of equity bid for each of said advances; and

for each of said advances, operating said host computer to transmit a bidding termination signal to each of said preselected computers upon the attainment of the respective maximum number of units of equity.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in the application, claim 2 being canceled herein. Claims 1 and 8 are the only independent claims.

#### *Specification*